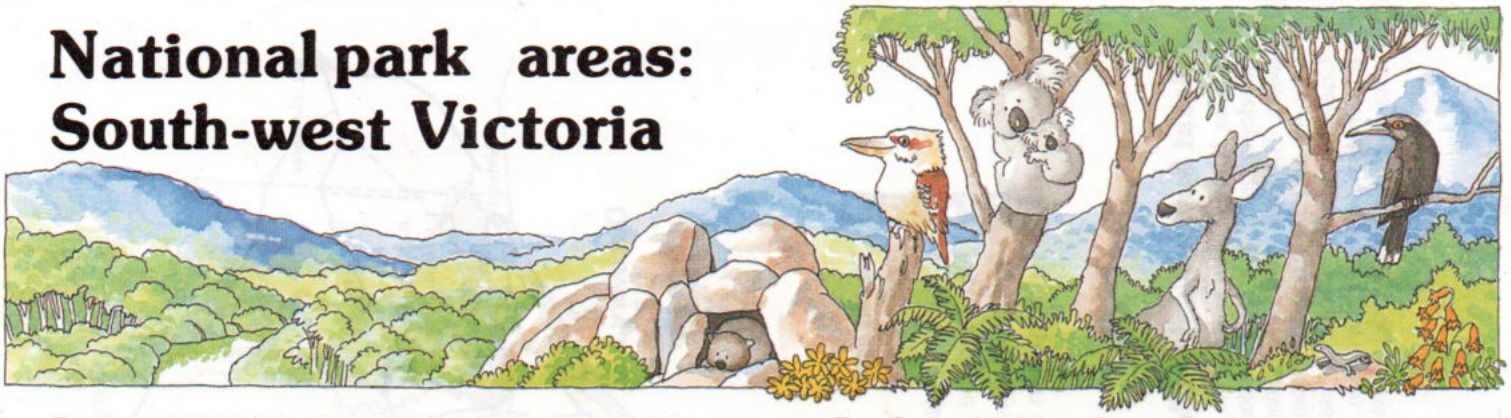
National park areas: South-west Victoria



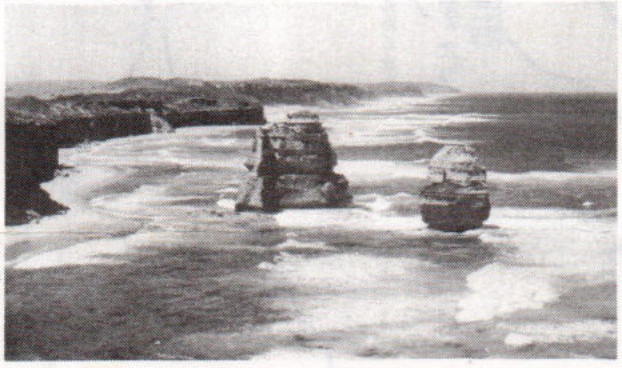
South-west Victoria's eight national park areas include magnificent coasts, pleasant bushland and volcanic features. Camping is permitted in five of the parks, and all have facilities for picnics and walks.

A new feature is the Great South West Walk track, which provides excellent opportunities for both day and extended walks.

1. Otway National Park 12 750 ha (052) 37 6843

This park includes fine fern gullies, forest, woodlands and heathlands as well as the spectacular coastline between Apollo Bay and Princetown, which varies from coastal cliffs to sand dunes.

Approach Otway National Park via the Great Ocean Road from Apollo Bay, Princetown or Lavers Hill. Camping facilities are available at Johanna, Aire River and Blanket Bay. Short or extended walks, swimming, surfing, fishing and enjoying the views are all popular in the park.



Port Campbell

2. Port Campbell National Park 1750 ha

(055) 98 6382

Rugged cliffs and other spectacular coastal formations are the features of Port Campbell National Park, a formidable coast which was the end of the journey for some ships last century.

The park can be approached from the Princes Highway or along the Great Ocean Road from Warrnambool or Lavers Hill. A visit to the Information Centre in Port Campbell will help you to find out about sightseeing, swimming, walking, fishing and canoeing in the park. Powered camp and caravan sites, showers, toilets and laundries are provided at Port Campbell. Advance bookings must be made for holiday periods.

3. Melba Gully State Park 48 ha

Melba Gully is just off the Great Ocean Road, 3 km west of Lavers Hill. High rainfall provides the conditions for a wide variety of ferns and mosses under a canopy of Myrtle Beech, while tall eucalypts grow on the upper slopes. There are picnic facilities near the car park and a delightful walking track through the gully.

4. Mount Eccles National Park 400 ha

(055) 76 1014

Mount Eccles is a scoria cone which last erupted about 7000 years ago. Below the mount is a series of craters now filled by the tranquil waters of Lake Surprise. Lava canals, caves and stony rises are other features.

This park is 42 km south of Hamilton, via Macarthur. A camping area, fireplaces, tables, toilets and a shelter are provided, and there is a nature walk around the rim of the craters.

5. Cape Nelson State Park 210 ha

Twelve km along a sealed road from Portland, Cape Nelson State Park was established in 1978 to protect some unusual vegetation, including the Soap Mallee, found nowhere else in Victoria. Sea Cliff Nature Walk explains some of the features of the park. Fireplaces and toilets are provided. The lighthouse near the tip of the cape is open two days a week.

6. Mount Richmond National Park 1707 ha

Richmond Henty, one of the first white children in this area, had a mountain named after him. Like Mt Eccles, this mountain is a volcano, but it consists of tuff, not basalt, and is now covered by a layer of sand. Mount Richmond National Park is particularly noted for spring wildflowers and wildlife such as koalas, wallabies and birds.

The park is 23 km from Portland via the Portland-Nelson Road Fireplaces, toilets and picnic tables are provided.

7. Discovery Bay Coastal Park 8530 ha

(087) 38 4051

Immense dunes, a long coastline and lakes are the features of Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The freshwater swamps and lakes are excellent places for bird watching. Lake Monibeong and Swan Lake are good spots for camping, and fireplaces, water and toilets are provided at Bridgewater Lakes for picnickers. Although the surf along most of Discovery Bay is hazardous, the beach on the Glenelg River estuary near Nelson is safe for swimming.

Lower Glenelg

8. Lower Glenelg National Park 27 300 ha

(087) 38 4051

The Glenelg River, which rises in the Grampians, has cut a 60 km gorge through limestone in its lower reaches. This gorge is the central feature of Lower Glenelg National Park. Many people explore the river by canoe or small boat, and the fishing is excellent. Visit the Information Centre north of Nelson to find out about things to see and do.

Another major feature of the park is Princess Margaret Rose Cave; its delicate limestone formations can be seen on regular guided tours. Motor huts and a limited number of camp sites are available, and a large picnic area with barbecues, tables and toilets has been developed. Bush camping is also allowed at a number of places along the Glenelg River. These sites, which have either vehicle or canoe access, are for tents only. Bookings are necessary for holiday periods.

December 1983 Revised December 1985

Department of Conservation Forests & Lands

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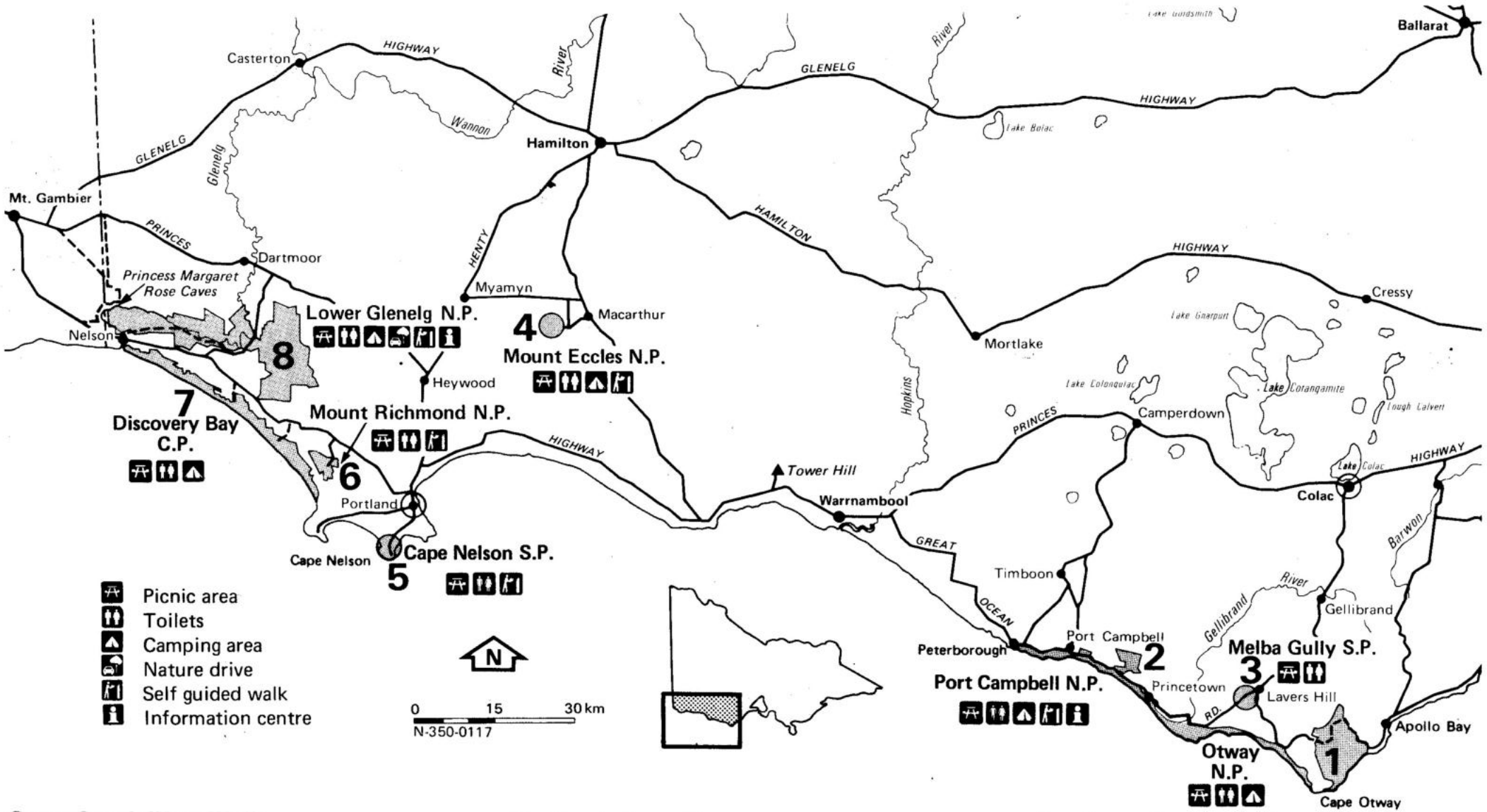


Great South West Walk

It takes 10 or 11 days to cover the entire 200 km of this newly-developed track, but many sections are accessible for shorter walks. The walk starts near Portland and goes through Lower Glenelg and Mt. Richmond National Parks, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Cape Nelson State Park and forest areas. Information on access, navigation, campsites and safety can be obtained from National Parks Service offices.

Further information

* For information about the parks contact the Regional Offices at Portland, phone (055) 23 3232, or Colac, phone (052) 31 5799.

Contact phone numbers are given for some of the parks.

* For information about accommodation near the parks contact Regional Tourist Offices at Geelong (83 Ryrie Street — (052) 9 7220), Warrambool (Raglan Parade — (055) 62 3274) or Hamilton (Lonsdale Street — (055) 72 3746), or the Mt. Gambier Tourist Information Centre (Princes Highway — (087) 24 1730).

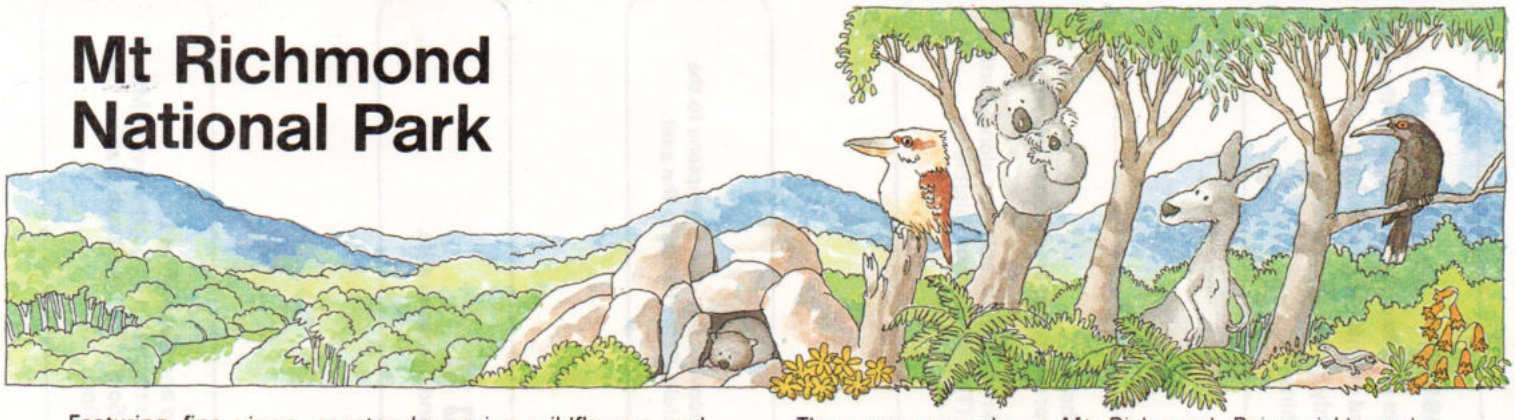
Looking after the parks

Please follow the commonsense regulations that apply in national parks:

* All plants and animals are protected and should not be disturbed.
* Guns, dogs and other pets are not permitted.
* Fires are only allowed in constructed fireplaces.

Contact the National Parks Service for details of regulations applying in other parks.

Mt Richmond National Park



Featuring fine views, spectacular spring wildflowers and abundant wildlife, Mt. Richmond should not be missed if you're visiting south-west Victoria.

An easy 20 minute drive from Portland, the park has pleasant walking tracks and picnic and barbecue sites set in unspoiled bushland.

Mt. Richmond was named after Richmond Henty, one of the first white children born in the Portland area. The national park was established in 1960, as a result of the dedication of local naturalists such as Noel Learmonth and Cliff Beauglehole.

Things to do

- The park is ideal for a picnic lunch. Wood barbecues and picnic tables are provided.
- A lookout tower near the picnic area gives fine views of Discovery Bay and the surrounding countryside.

Note that camping is not permitted in the park, but sites are available in nearby towns and parks.

Short walks in the park

All the walking tracks listed below are circular, and easy going for most people. Other walking tracks are shown on the map.

1. **Benwerrin Nature Walk** — 1 hour
The self-guided Benwerrin Nature Walk is recommended for all visitors. A free leaflet (available at the start of the track) will help you discover some of the secrets of the park's plant and animal communities.

2. **Noels Walk** — 1 hour
The track descends through tall stringybark forest to peppermint and swamp gum open forest at the base of the mount. The last section of the track is fairly steep.

3. **West Walk** — 1 hour
This walk features good ocean views. Vegetation includes stunted stringy barks and open heathlands. The track may be wet in places in winter and spring.

4. **Ocean View Walk** — 45 minutes
A lookout provides views of Cape Bridgewater and Discovery Bay. Koalas can sometimes be seen feeding on manna gums along the track.

Where's the volcano?

Visitors to the park may be surprised to learn that Mt. Richmond is an extinct volcano. Where's the crater and volcanic rock?

Most of the volcano is, in fact, covered with a layer of sand blown inland long ago from Discovery Bay. The mountain itself consists not of basalt but of tuff, a porous rock formed when volcanic ash gradually hardened after the eruption ceased over two million years ago.

Vegetation gradually became established on Mt. Richmond, and many hardy native species now grow successfully on the infertile sandy soils occurring in most of the park.

There are no creeks on Mt. Richmond. Rain quickly soaks into the sand and seeps down the mountainside underground. Much of the water is not seen again, since it soaks into the deep coastal sands, but in places it settles into depressions to form swamps and wet heathlands which are a favourable habitat for many birds and other animals.

Some of Victoria's best wildflowers

About 450 species of plants have been recorded in the park, including 50 orchid species. Correas, heaths, wattles and bush peas provide spectacular colours in spring, but there are plants flowering at Mt. Richmond at almost any time of the year.

The well-drained soils near the top of the mount support a forest dominated by **brown stringybark** with small pockets of **manna gum**.

Further down the slopes, the main eucalypts are **shiny-leaf peppermint** and **swamp gum** (common in the picnic area) with an under-storey of grass trees, heath and many colourful annual and perennial plants. The wet heathlands are dominated by **swamp paperbark**.

Salt-laden winds have a marked effect on the vegetation in exposed areas, as you will discover on the Benwerrin Nature Walk.

From kangaroos and koalas to robins and rosellas

The park's varied habitats support a wide range of wildlife. **Eastern grey kangaroos** graze near the picnic area, and **koalas** may be seen in nearby eucalypts in the drier months. **Red-necked wallabies** occur throughout the park, and **echidnas** can often be seen searching for ants. **Copperhead** and **tiger snakes** are sometimes seen sunning themselves on a warm day.

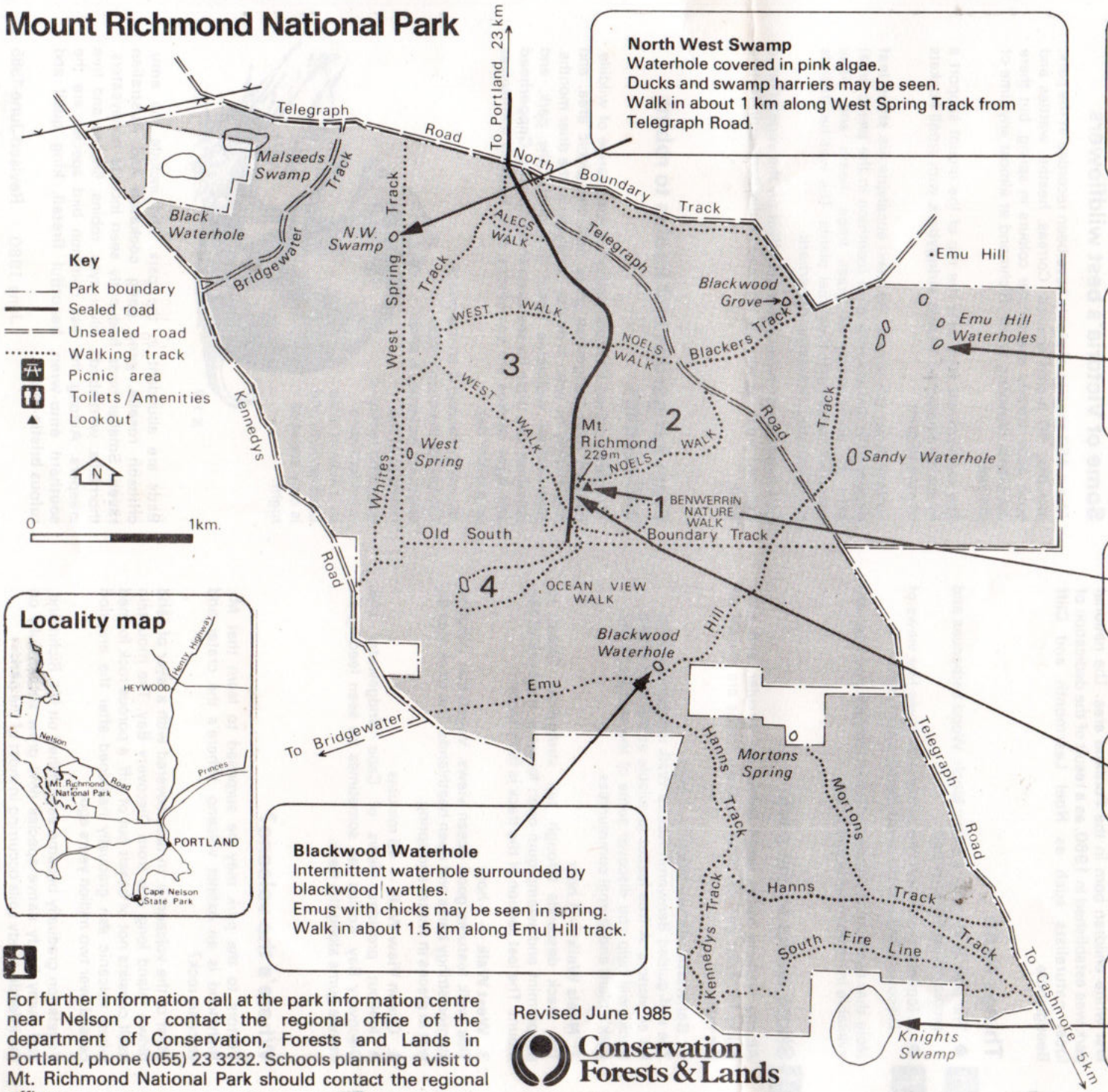
Mount Richmond is an important habitat for the uncommon **southern potoroo**. A small member of the kangaroo family, it is seldom seen as it lives in thick undergrowth and is only active at night.

X 1/7

Birds are abundant in the park, and include the **emu**, **crimson rosella**, **gang gang cockatoo** and **Australian raven**. Smaller birds frequently seen include honeyeaters, thornbills, wattlebirds, silver-eyes, robins, finches and tree creepers. Among the less common bird species are the **southern emu-wren**, **beautiful firetail**, **king quail** and **rufous bristle-bird**.

June 1980 Revised June 1985

Mount Richmond National Park



North West Swamp
Waterhole covered in pink algae.
Ducks and swamp harriers may be seen.
Walk in about 1 km along West Spring Track from Telegraph Road.

Please remember . . .

- **No dogs, cats or firearms are allowed in the park.**
- **All plants and animals are protected.**
- **Light fires only in fireplaces provided.**
- **Put litter in bins.**

Emu Hill Waterholes
Waterholes in wet heathland area with many small birds.
Walk in about 3 km from park entrance along North Boundary Track. (This track is **not** suitable for vehicles).

Lookout Tower
Fine views of Discovery Bay, the Grampians to the north, and Lady Julia Percy Island to the east.

Picnic area
Pleasant picnic and barbecue area.

Blackwood Waterhole
Intermittent waterhole surrounded by blackwood wattles.
Emus with chicks may be seen in spring.
Walk in about 1.5 km along Emu Hill track.

Knights Swamp and South Fire Line
Excellent water bird area, with good views of Mt. Richmond from South Fire Line. Walk in about 1 km from Telegraph Road.

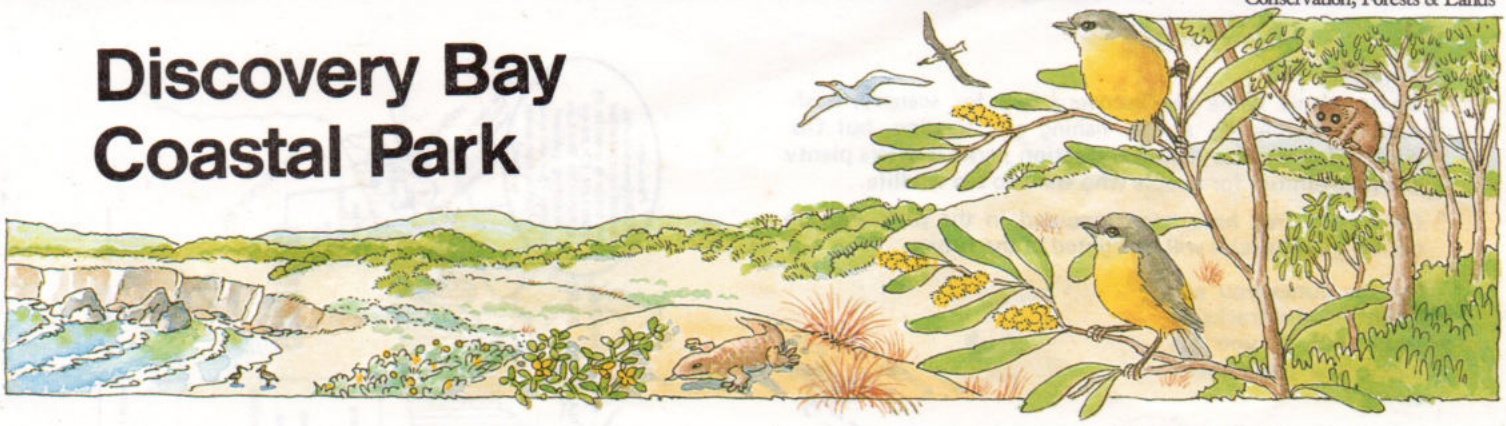
Locality map

For further information call at the park information centre near Nelson or contact the regional office of the department of Conservation, Forests and Lands in Portland, phone (055) 23 3232. Schools planning a visit to Mt. Richmond National Park should contact the regional office.

Revised June 1985

Conservation Forests & Lands

Discovery Bay Coastal Park



A vast stretch of unspoilt ocean beach, huge rolling sand dunes and tranquil lakes and swamps are the dominating features of Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Covering 8530 ha, this fascinating area occupies an expanse of coastal land between Portland and the South Australian border.

Things you can do

The main attraction for visitors are the lakes, the dune areas and the rugged coastline.

Although unsafe for swimming and surfing, except in the river estuary near Nelson, the beaches are very good for walking and surf fishing.

1. The *Bridgewater Lakes* (freshwater lakes with no outlet to the sea) are popular with visitors, particularly those interested in swimming, waterskiing, boating, fishing and walking. There is a walking track leading to the ocean beach.

On the Main Lake, fishing and waterskiing are allowed only at certain specified times of the day (see map).

2. Swimming and picnicking are the main activities at *Swan Lake* and basic amenities for camping are provided at *Swan Lake Flats* (south east of the picnic area). Motor boats are not allowed on the lake.

Access is by gravel road which is signposted on the main Portland – Nelson Road. A walking track follows the course of Johnstons Creek to the ocean beach.

3. You can camp on the grassy flats on the south eastern shore of *Lake Mombeong* where fireplaces and a toilet are provided. Please contact the Ranger-in-Charge at Nelson if you intend camping in the park. Canoes, sail boats and small motorised dingys can be used on Lake Mombeong but you must observe the speed limit. Water skiing is not permitted. A hiking trail leads from Lake Mombeong to Nobles Rocks.

4. Nobles Rocks is directly accessible from the Portland – Nelson Road and is an excellent place for surf fishing. *Long Swamp* offers a wide range of opportunities for people interested in flora and fauna.

5. The 200 km Great South West Walk passes through a variety of forest, river and coastal landscapes in and near the park. Challenging as a 10 day excursion, the walk can be undertaken in stages.

History of the area: settlement and sand

On the morning of 3rd December 1800, Lieutenant James Grant, in H.M. brig "Lady Nelson" sighted Discovery Bay, becoming the first European recorded to have seen that part of the Australian coast. He described the area as 'flat land covered with brushes and large woods'.

To-day bare and mobile dunes cover this land. Many of the changes that have occurred since this first sighting are the result of European settlement which began in the early 1840s. Nearly all suitable land in the area was occupied by squatters until 1876 when the last licence was cancelled and freehold settlers moved in. There is still some private land within the park boundaries and visitors are asked to respect the rights of these property owners.

The influence of man on Discovery Bay extends further back than the arrival of Lieutenant Grant. A number of aboriginal kitchen middens in the dunes around some of the lakes testify to aboriginal occupation in the area long before Europeans arrived on the scene.

Plant life: relics and rarity

The animals and plant communities have altered significantly since Lieutenant Grant sighted the area. Many dunes support no vegetation at all. This is due partly to natural causes, but also to land management practices in the past. The small patches of vegetation that occur on some sand dunes are relic communities indicating a former land system that was stable. These include plants such as coast wattle, correa, coast beard heath and many others typical of coastal heathlands.

Away from the dune areas, the plant and animal communities are quite complex. At Long Swamp, for example, common reed and bullrushes are replaced in shallower water by sedges and rushes that merge into low heaths and dense paperback thickets. This is a particularly interesting area for botanists, as it includes several plant species of high conservation value. The maroon leek orchid for instance, was once widespread in Victoria, but is now rare because of widespread land clearing. Another orchid, the swamp greenhood, was unknown until as late as 1946. Also rare in Victoria, it can only be found in the shaded swamp areas.

Around Long Swamp you can also see both pink and yellow flowered forms of a variety of yellow gum *(Eucalyptus leucoxylon* var. *macrocarpa)* that occurs nowhere else in the State.

Department of Conservation Forests & Lands

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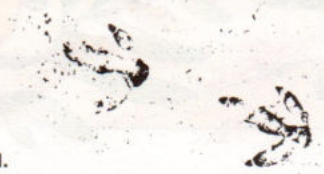
Animals

Many people come to Discovery Bay for scenery, bush-walking, swimming, skiing, fishing and boating, but Discovery Bay is more than a recreation park: it offers plenty of opportunities for people who want to see wildlife.

Over 140 birds have been recorded in the park and, no doubt, more species will be sighted in the future.

On the dunes you will often see the tracks of emus and, if you are lucky, the birds themselves.



Emu walking tracks in the sand.

Along the ocean beaches gulls, dotterels, terns and many other water birds can be found feeding close to the waterline.

Gulls, Terns.

Probably the best spot for birdwatching is the estuary at Nelson where spoonbills, pelicans, swans and many other waterbirds are often sighted. The lakes and swamps are also excellent for birds.

Swans

Don't go to these areas empty-handed — take a bird book with you. The Gould League Books *'Birds of Victoria'* are particularly useful field guides.

Grey kangaroos and red-necked wallabies are common in the park. At least twelve other native mammals are found in the area, although some are rarely seen. These include pigmy possums, gliders, bush rats and potoroos. (The last look like wallabies but are smaller).

Rabbits, cats, dogs and other exotic animals were introduced into the area after the arrival of Europeans. They are regarded as pests and can do quite a lot of damage in natural areas; that is why we ask you to leave your pets at home.

A few helpful hints

Discovery Bay is a park of dramatically changing moods — it can be a very friendly or a very hostile environment. Provided that people take care to locate themselves within the park, keep to the tracks, and give themselves plenty of time to prepare their trip, their visit will be rewarding.

The weather can be quite hot in summer and is subject to strong winds at any time of the year. Unless going for just a short stroll, walkers in the dunes should take care to walk back on their tracks. It is very easy to get lost in these areas. We advise you not to wear contact lenses, particularly on windy days.

Please remember

Discovery Bay is a special kind of park that was created for people to use and enjoy — but with sensitivity, so that the high scenic and conservation value of its unique landscape will not be harmed. Because it caters for such a wide range of recreational activities, usage of the different areas has been zoned so that visitor interests will not conflict. One activity that is strictly controlled and permitted only in designated areas is horse-riding. For more information it is essential that you contact the Ranger-in-Charge.

Information

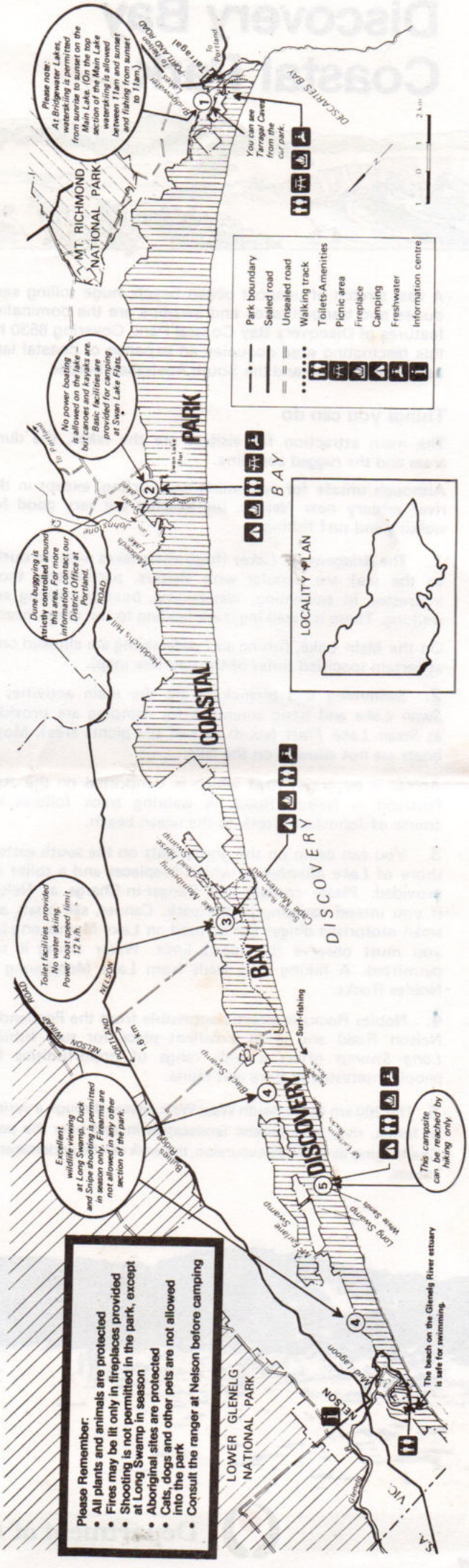
If you would like information on the Great South West Walk, or other parks in the south west corner of Victoria, contact:

Regional Office, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.
P.O. Box 471, Portland, Phone (055) 23 3232 or
Head Office, Phone (03) 651 4011.

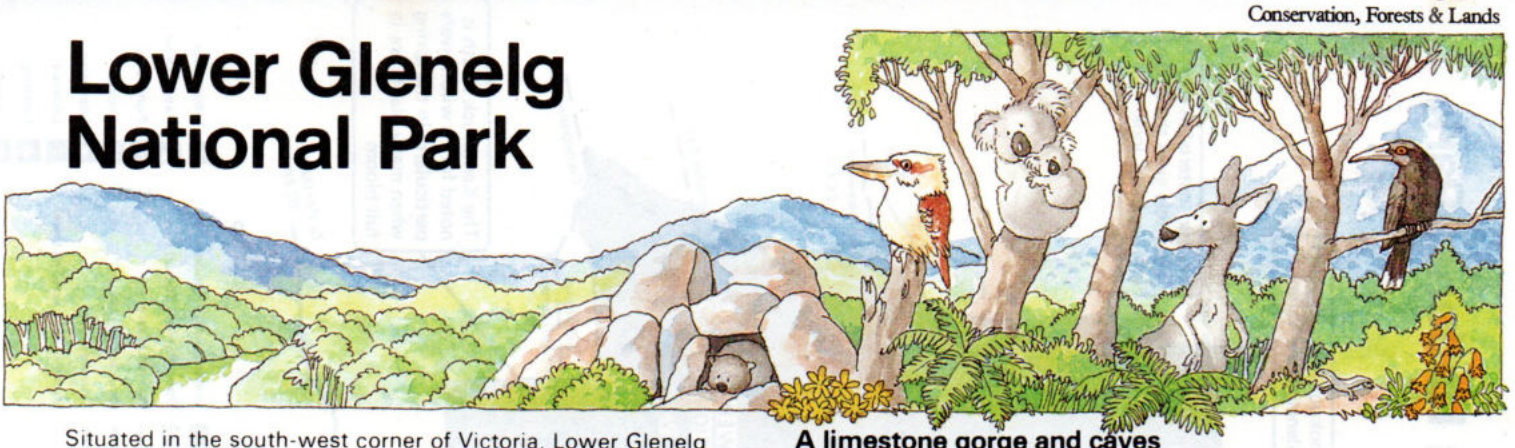
The Ranger-in-Charge of Discovery Bay Coastal Park can be contacted:

C/- P.O., Nelson 3292. Phone (087) 38 4051
A.H. (087) 38 4144

June 1978
Revised June 1985


Please note: At Bridgewater Lakes, waterskiing is permitted from sunrise to sunset on the Main Lake. (On the section of the Main Lake waterskiing is allowed between 11am and sunset and fishing from sunset to 11am)
Bridgewater Lakes
Tarragal
To Portland
DISCARTS BAY
You can see Tarragal Caves from the car park.
MT. RICHMOND NATIONAL PARK
Park boundary
Sealed road
Unsealed road
Walking track
Toilets-Amenities
Picnic area
Fireplace
Camping
Freshwater
Information centre
No power boating is allowed on the lake — but canoes and kayaks are. Basic facilities are provided for camping at Swan Lake Flats.
Swan Lake Flat
PARK
BAY
LOCALITY PLAN
Dune buggying is strictly controlled around this area. For more information contact our District Office at Portland.
ROAD
Haddricks Hill
COASTAL
DISCOVERY
Toilet facilities provided No water skiing Power boat speed limit 12 k/h.
Lake Monibeong
Swamp
Cape Montesquieu
NELSON
PORTLAND
16 km
Surf fishing
Black Swamp
Excellent wildlife viewing at Long Swamp. Duck and Snipe shooting is permitted in season only. Firearms are not allowed in any other section of the park.
This campsite can be reached by hiking only
Long Swamp
Please Remember:
• All plants and animals are protected
• Fires may be lit only in fireplaces provided
• Shooting is not permitted in the park, except at Long Swamp in season
• Aboriginal sites are protected
• Cats, dogs and other pets are not allowed into the park
• Consult the ranger at Nelson before camping
LOWER GLENELG NATIONAL PARK
Mud Lagoon
The beach on the Glenelg River estuary is safe for swimming.
NELSON
VIC.
S.A.

Lower Glenelg National Park



Situated in the south-west corner of Victoria, Lower Glenelg National Park derives its name from the Glenelg River, which rises in the Grampians and winds 400 kilometres through western Victoria to the sea at Nelson.

Things to do

Walking Many fire-access tracks run through the park providing a range of walks. The park is on the route of the 200 km Great South West Walk. This 10 day excursion through forests, river sides, and coastal dunes can be undertaken in stages. A brochure is available.

Driving and sightseeing Gravel and sand roads provide access to many parts of the park (see map). Short walks at a number of points (e.g. Sapling Creek) enable you to see the scenic Glenelg River Gorge. A separate brochure is available for the Glenelg Nature Drive.

- **Natural history** is what the park is all about. Take bird and plant books, binoculars, hand lens and camera and study the park's flora and fauna.

Picnicking As indicated on the map, there are several pleasant picnic areas particularly along the Glenelg River.

Camping Few facilities exist but you can camp in some parts of the park if you book with the ranger in advance. Only camping in tents is allowed, except at Princess Margaret Rose Caves. There are caravan parks at Nelson and Winnap. A range of other accommodation is available at Nelson, Mt. Gambier and Portland.

Canoeing The Glenelg is an excellent river for canoe trips. The water is safe with no sections of fast flow. Contact the ranger if you plan an overnight canoe trip. Canoes are available for hire in Nelson.

Boating and water skiing Boat launching ramps are available, and water skiing is permitted in designated zones in the park. A separate brochure titled 'Boating on the Glenelg River' provides further details. A commercial boat trip is available from Nelson to the Princess Margaret Rose Caves.

Fishing The Glenelg River is one of the most important streams in Australia for amateur fishing. At least five popular species are found in the river, several of them breeding there. They are: bass or Gippsland perch, southern black bream, mulloway, (which travels as far up the river as Moleside Creek), yellow-eye mullet and Australian salmon (normally found close to the river mouth).

Echidna

A limestone gorge and caves

The most spectacular feature of the park is the gorge of the Glenelg River. For 35 kilometres along its lower reaches, the river has cut a gorge, in places more than 50 metres deep, in Miocene limestone.

Water percolating through and dissolving the limestone has formed caves, which are of archaeological interest and are also nursery or roosting caves for bats. Some caves have vertical shafts which, over thousands of years, have literally been death traps for unwary animals. The remains of long exinct marsupials such as the giant kangaroo and the marsupial lion have been found in these caves, as well as remains of the Tasmanian tiger and the Tasmanian devil, now extinct on the mainland.

A visit to the *Princess Margaret Rose Caves*, noted for their beautiful and delicate limestone formations, is recommended. Regular guided tours are conducted in the caves.

Smooth Parrot-pea
Dillwynia glaberrima

Plants from the east and west

Lower Glenelg National Park has a very impressive array of native plants — some 700 species in all — because in this part of Victoria, Western Australian types mingle with those that are characteristically eastern. There are plants of forest, heath, swamp, river, dune and cliff associations.

The heath and fringing forest areas are very rich in orchids, there being more than 50 species, and the tributaries of Moleside Creek support the most westerly treefern gullies in Australia. In fact at least 60 species of plants reach their westernmost occurrence in the park.

Much of the vegetation in the western part of the park was burnt by a severe bushfire in January 1979. (The fire started in S.A. and jumped the Glenelg River.) Regeneration from seeds, rootstocks, and epicormic buds provides evidence of the adaptation of many native species to fire.

Wildlife

The park is rich in wildlife. The eastern grey kangaroo and red-necked wallaby both occur, the latter being identified by its reddish-brown neck. Brush-tailed possums and echidnas are commonly seen. In heathy areas many uncommon small mammals, including the heath rat, swamp antechinus and potoroo, can be found.

One small colony of wombats in the park, and one or two nearby colonies, form the only remnants of a once widespread population in south-western Victoria. Similarly, yellow-bellied gliders are now confined to a few bushland areas (particularly Lower Glenelg National Park) remaining in the south-west after clearing.

Emus, herons and ducks are the most common large birds. Others include the spotted quail thrush, painted quail, ground thrush, azure kingfisher and the rare rufous bristle bird.

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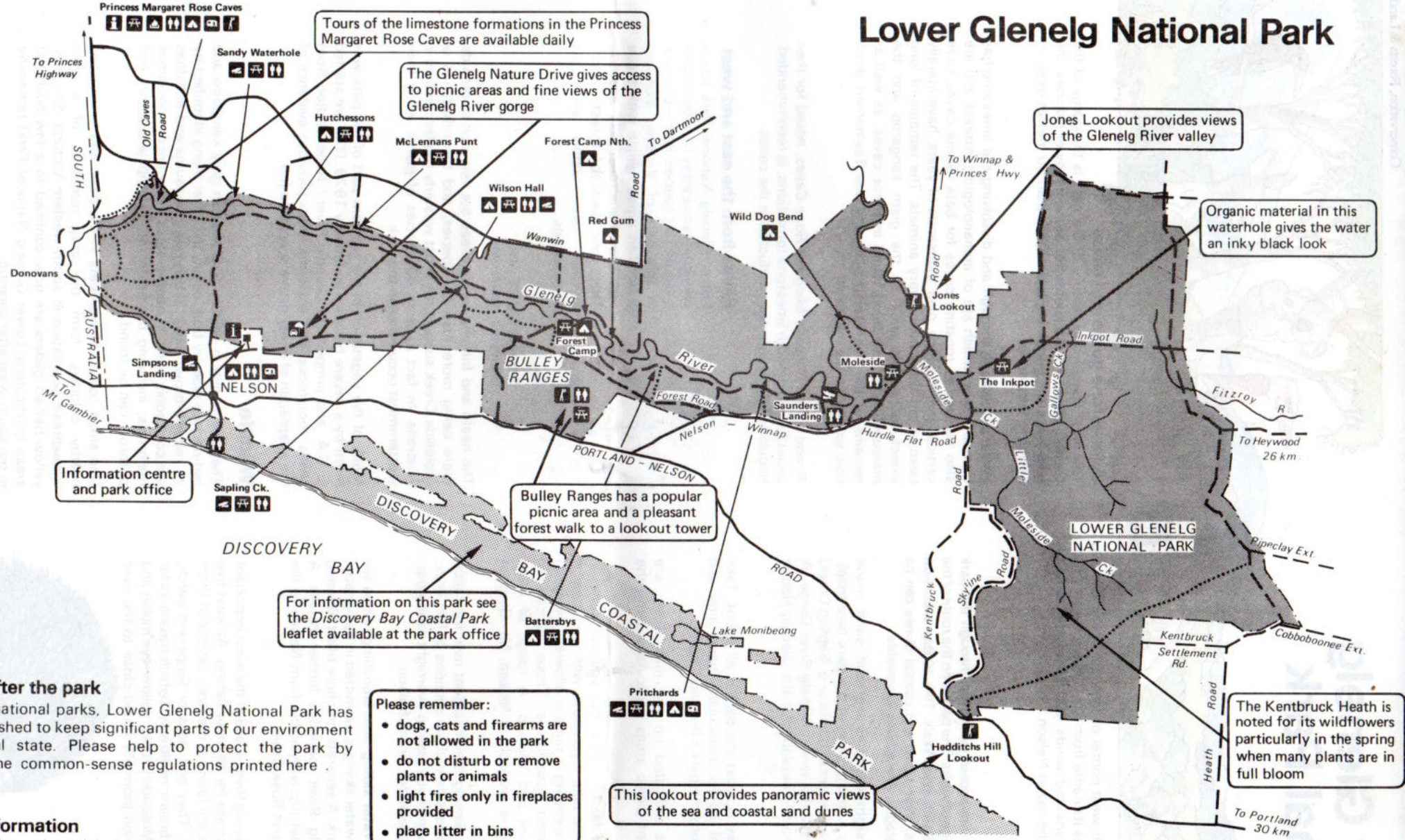
Lower Glenelg National Park



Looking after the park

Like other national parks, Lower Glenelg National Park has been established to keep significant parts of our environment in a natural state. Please help to protect the park by observing the common-sense regulations printed here .

Please remember:

- **dogs, cats and firearms are not allowed in the park**
- **do not disturb or remove plants or animals**
- **light fires only in fireplaces provided**
- **place litter in bins**

Further information

For more information, visit the information centre and office situated north of Nelson (see map), or contact the Ranger-in-Charge, Lower Glenelg National Park, C/- Post Office, Nelson 3292. Telephone (087) 384 051.

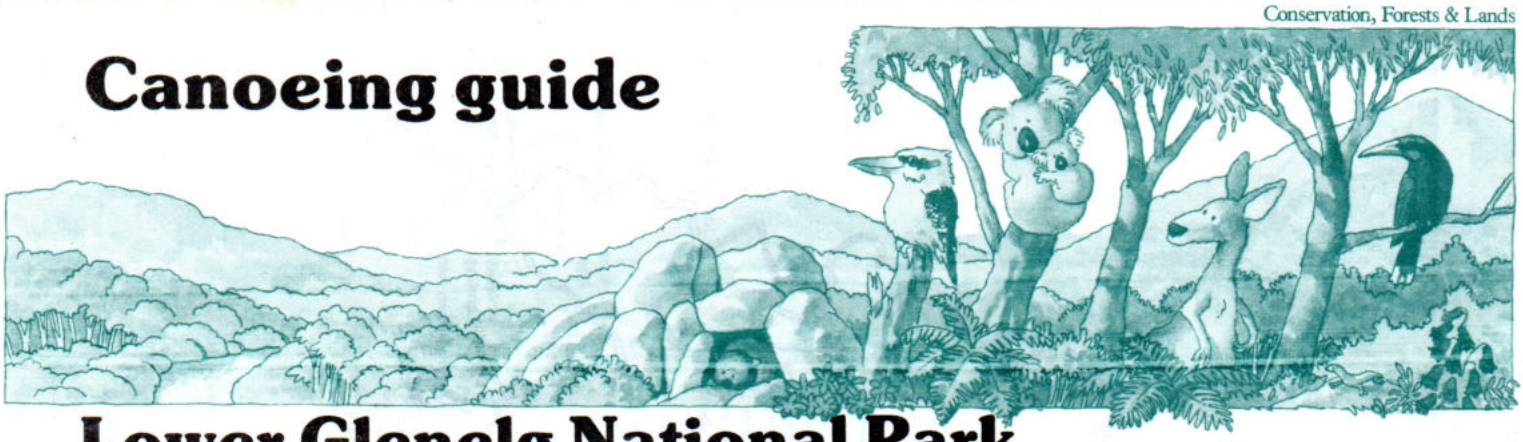
Information is also available from the office at Portland, phone (055) 233 232.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the park.

September 1981
Revised June 1985

Conservation Forests & Lands

Canoeing guide



Lower Glenelg National Park

Canoeing on the Glenelg River from the River mouth to above Keegans Bend is under the control of the Department of Conservation, Forests &Lands except that part of the river which is in South Australia. On the Victorian section of the river, canoeists are required to comply with the Regulations in respect of operation and the carrying of safety equipment. Water is provided at major camp areas; however, canoeists are advised to bring fresh water containers.

For the safety and convenience of river users, the Victorian section has been zoned for various uses. There are two water skiing/power boating zones called Taylors Straight and Sandy Waterholes. Transit channels marked with signs and buoys have been defined to provide passage for slower boats through water skiing/power boating zones. The mud lagoon near the river mouth is an important wildlife area.

There are a number of launching ramps along the river and these are shown on the maps together with the principal landings. Vehicle access to canoe camps is only available at Moleside and Pritchards.

When using the river . . .

Boats must not be beached or moored amongst the reeds, or obstruct boat launching ramps. Always travel on the righthand side of the river (except that slow boats in transit channels travel on the lefthand side heading upstream).

A permit is required for tent camping in Lower Glenelg National Park. Campers and canoe users are asked to take their rubbish with them when they leave the park. Fires may be lit only in the fire places provided. Dogs, cats and firearms are prohibited in Lower Glenelg National Park.

Rules for safe canoeing

*Ensure that all participants can swim
*Do not mix alcohol and canoeing
*Do not overload the canoe
*Estimate distances accurately
*Always wear lifejackets
*Do not canoe alone
*Know your ability
*If you do capsize pull canoe into bank.

PASSING THROUGH THE WATER SKIING/POWER BOATING ZONES

CANOEISTS :

(a) must travel in the marked transit channel. This channel is 15 metres wide and extends along one bank of the river for the entire length of the water skiing/power boating zone.

(b) must not stop in transit channel.

(c) must not stop in ski zones except if embarking or disembarking at Lasletts.

Looking after the park

* Do not pollute the river
* Camp in designated areas - permits are required
* Do not damage vegetation or disturb wildlife
* Leave no trace of your visit.

Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands

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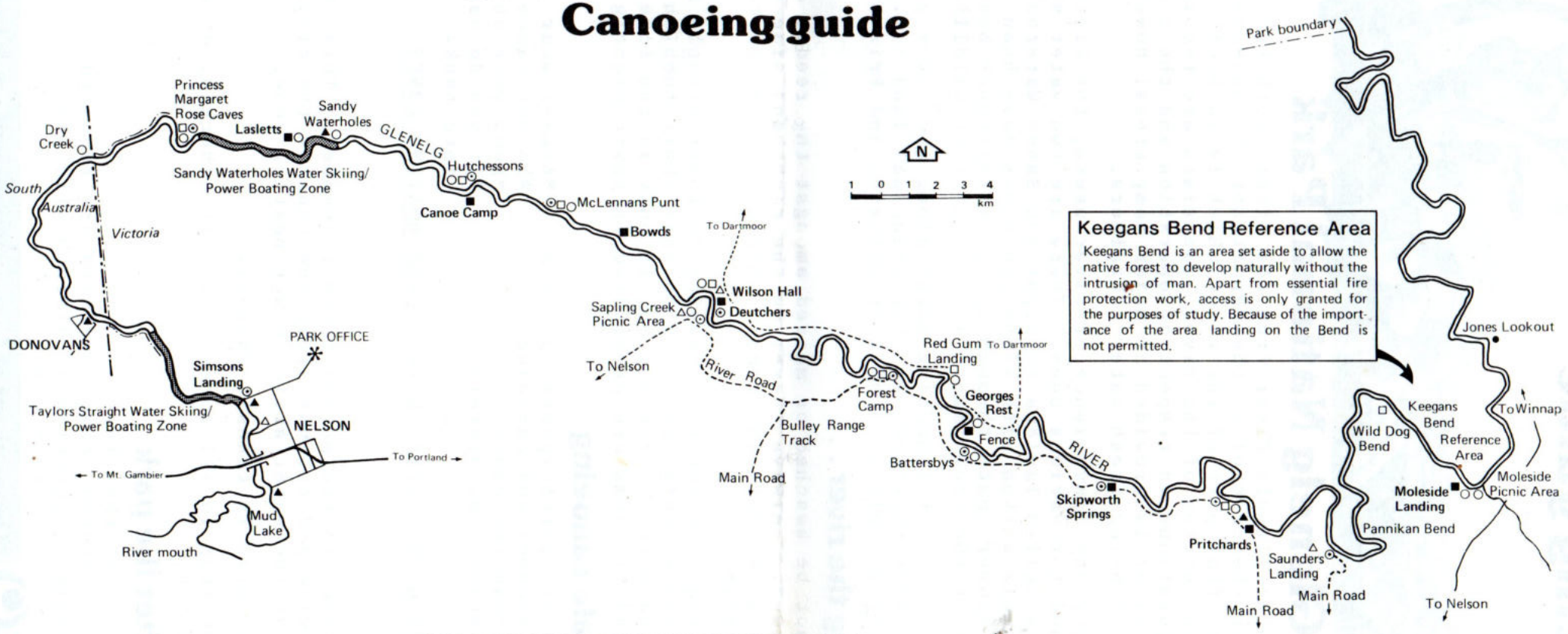
Information

Further information may be obtained from the Park Office at Nelson (087) 38 4051.
We hope you enjoy boating in Lower Glenelg National Park.

Lower Glenelg National Park

Canoeing guide



Keegans Bend Reference Area

Keegans Bend is an area set aside to allow the native forest to develop naturally without the intrusion of man. Apart from essential fire protection work, access is only granted for the purposes of study. Because of the importance of the area landing on the Bend is not permitted.

CANOE CAMPS

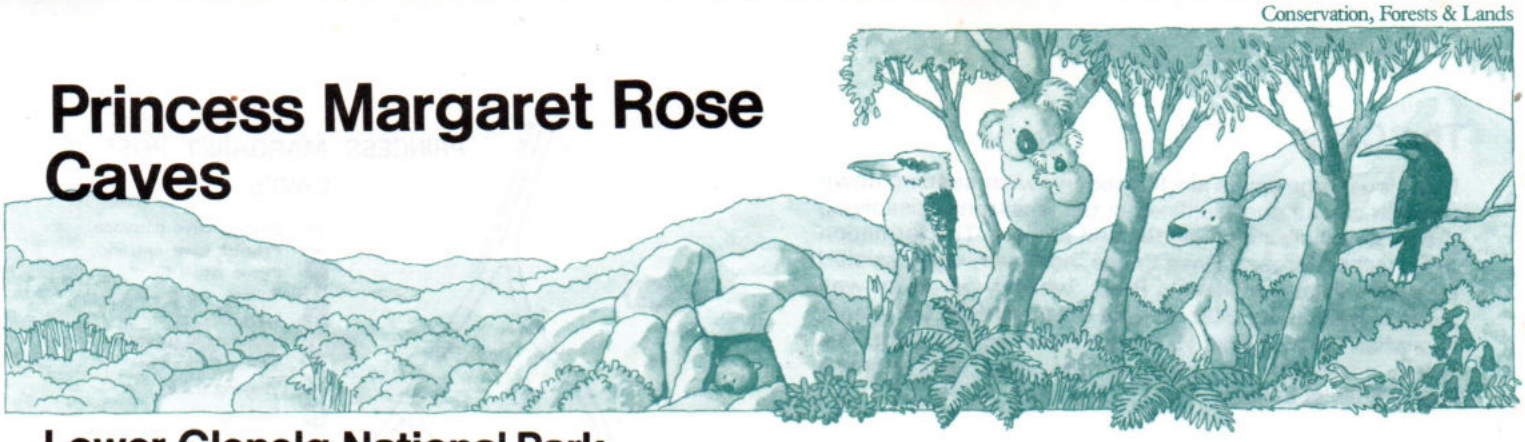
LOCATION	DISTANCE "downstream" (km)		
Moleside Landing	0	Wilson Hall "Deutchers"	25.6
Pritchards	10.0	Bowds	28.1
Skipworth Springs	13.7	Pattersons Canoe Camp	30.7
Georges Rest	18.5	Lasletts	35.7
Forest Camp North	21.1	Simsons Landing	48.3

LEGEND

- ▲ Major Launching ramps
- △ Launching ramps for small boats only
- ○⊙ Picnic areas/landings
- □ Vehicle camps
- ■ Canoe camps
- Waterskiing/Power boating zones

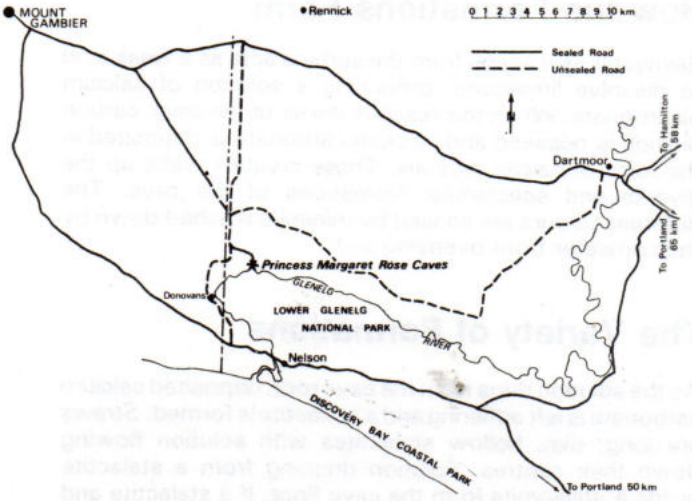
Conservation Forests & Lands

Princess Margaret Rose Caves



Lower Glenelg National Park

Of the many limestone caves in Lower Glenelg National Park, the main cave of the Princess Margaret Rose Caves is the most attractive, and the only cave suitable for public use. It contains excellent examples of actively growing stalactites, stalagmites, helictites and other spectacular limestone formations. The cave can be readily seen on a caves tour led by an informative National Parks Ranger.



Things to do

- **Cave Tours.** Guided tours lasting about half an hour are conducted at 10 am, 11 am, 12 noon, 1.30 pm, 2.30 pm, 3.30 pm, 4.30 pm (Victorian time) most days. There is an admission charge.
  Tours are not conducted on Christmas Day, Good Friday or during maintenance of the cave.
  School groups, provided that they book in advance, will be admitted for the child (under 14) rate.
  Bus tours should advise the Caves Ranger in advance.
  Tours are limited to a maximum number of 85 persons.

- **Picnicking.** A large picnic area has been developed among the trees near the cave. Wood barbecues, picnic tables and toilets are provided. A small kiosk is open on most days.

- **River View Nature Walk.** Notes are available for the River View Nature Walk which leads from the cave entrance to two lookouts overlooking the Glenelg River Gorge.

- **Nature Study.** The Nature Walk provides good access to wildflowers, and many birds are seen around the picnic area, the forest and the river.

- **Camping.** A limited number of sites are available for overnight camping. Arrangements must be made with the Caves Ranger before 5 pm.

- **Motor Cabins.** 3 motor cabins are available for overnight accommodation. For booking details and fees contact the Caves Ranger.

How to Get There

By Car The caves are 2 km east of the South Australian border and can be reached by a sealed road from Mt. Gambier, or unsealed roads from Nelson, and Dartmoor. (See the locality map.)

By Boat Commercial boat tours operate to the caves from Nelson. Small boats can be moored at the caves jetty.

The Cave

Most limestone caves are formed by water seeping down through cracks and faultlines in the limestone, dissolving the rock and creating fissures and tunnels. The formation of Princess Margaret Rose Caves, however, was assisted by water from the Glenelg River, which worked its way along a faultline for 300 m. This occurred 800,000 years ago when the river was 15 m above its present height. The water scalloped the walls of the cave and wore a reasonably level floor.

How the Formations Form

Rainwater as it seeps from the surface acts as a weak acid to dissolve limestone, producing a solution of calcium bicarbonate. When this reaches the air of the cave, carbon dioxide is released and calcium carbonate is deposited in the form of calcite crystals. These crystals make up the diverse and spectacular formations of the cave. The different colours are caused by minerals washed down by the rainwater from overlying soil.

The Variety of Formations

As the solution drips from the cave roof, deposited calcium carbonate is left adhering and a *stalactite* is formed. *Straws* are long, thin, hollow stalactites with solution flowing down their centres. Solution dripping from a stalactite builds a *stalagmite* from the cave floor. If a stalactite and stalagmite join they form a *column*, and if that thickens it becomes a *pillar*.

Flow stone formations are caused by water flowing over the walls, leaving a smooth surface. Other formations at the roofline are *shawls*, *blankets* and *bacons*. The shapes and colours of these narrow formations are accurately described by their names.

Perhaps the most unusual formations in the cave are the mysterious *helictites*. Defying gravity, these long thin formations grow in all different directions. No one is certain how they form, but the commonly accepted theory is that they begin on crystals and are shaped by surface tensions and air currents.

Another mysterious formation in Princess Margaret Rose Caves is the rarely seen *cave coral*.

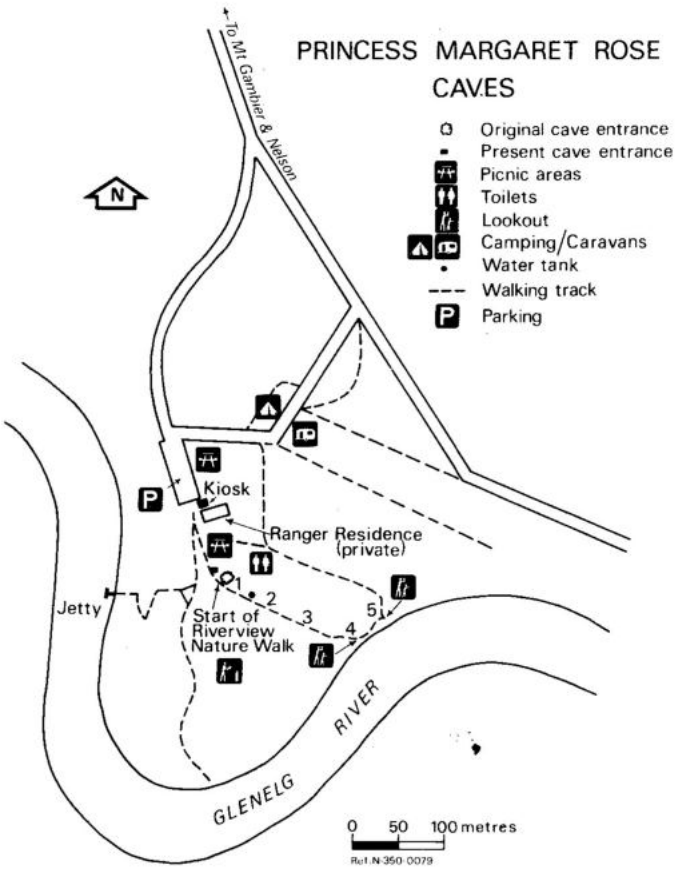
Bats and Other Animals

Before man opened up the cave, thousands of bats were in residence. Several species of bats rely on the stable conditions of temperature, humidity and safety within caves, particularly when raising young. Today many of the surrounding caves in Lower Glenelg National Park act as bat sanctuaries and are preserved for scientific study.

Over the years, other animals have wandered into the caves by accident and become trapped. The bones of these animals, some of which are now extinct, have been found in the Princess Margaret Rose Caves.

The Discovery of the Caves

Mr. S. McEachern and Mr. J. Hutchesson and his son Alan first explored the cave in 1936 and named it after Princess Margaret. They developed the cave as a tourist attraction with "Bunny" Hutchesson acting as the first permanent guide, conducting tours from January 4, 1941. Since 1980 the cave has been part of Lower Glenelg National Park.



Please remember

Help us to look after the national park by following these simple rules.

- Cave formations are delicate and must not be touched.
- Do not smoke in the caves as this damages the formations.
- Dogs, cats and other pets are not allowed beyond the car park.
- All native plants and animals are protected.
- Light fires only in fire places provided.
- Place litter in the bins.

Further Information

For further information, or to book cave tours for large groups, contact the Caves Ranger (087) 384171 or the Nelson Information Centre (087) 38 4051.

Conservation Forests & Lands

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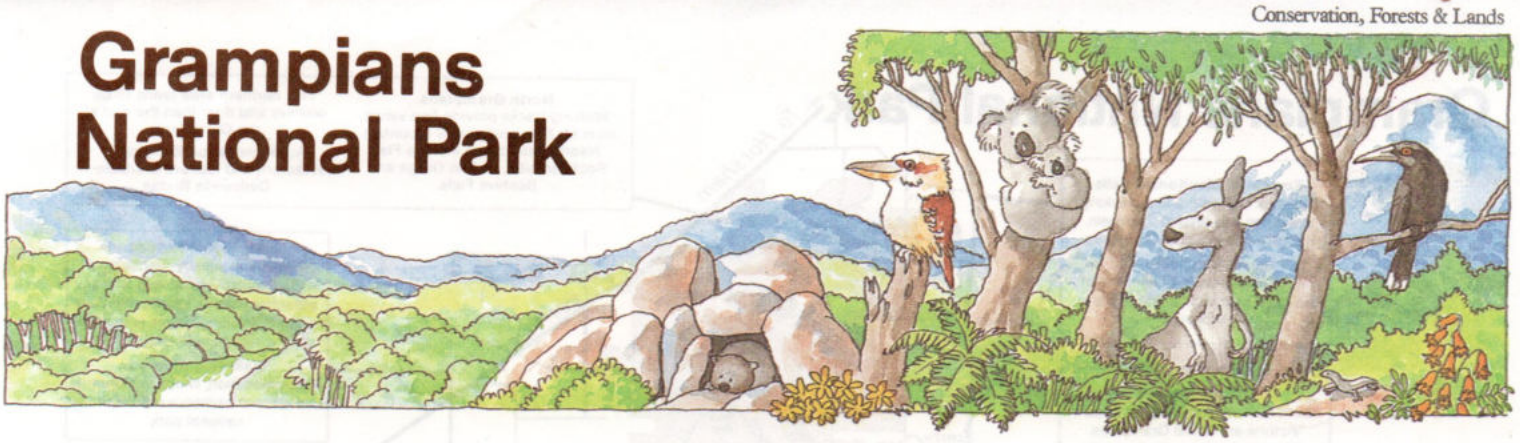
Grampians National Park



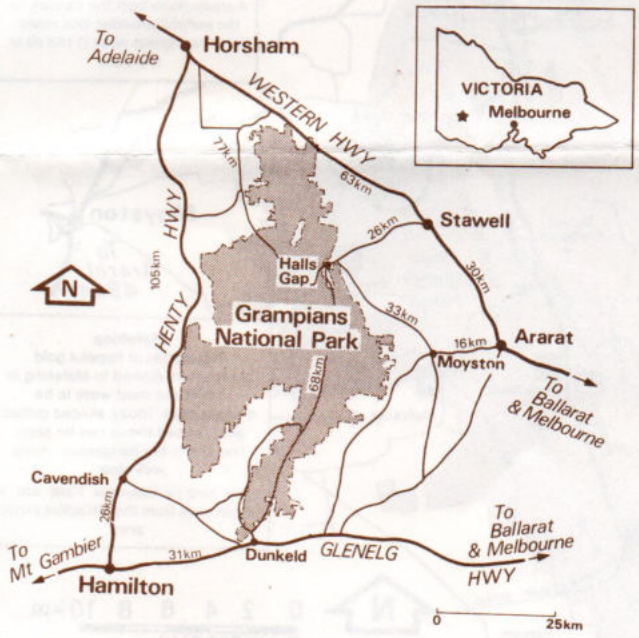
Long famous for rugged mountain ranges and spectacular wildflowers, the Grampians became Victoria's newest (and largest) national park on 1 July 1984.

The 167 000 hectare park protects a rich variety of native flora, wildlife and Aboriginal rock art sites, making it an area of national conservation significance.

Plans are being drawn up to increase recreation and education opportunities in the Grampians while still protecting the natural resources of the area.

• How to get there

Grampians National Park is in western Victoria, 260 km from Melbourne and 460 km from Adelaide. There is good road access from several surrounding towns.



• Sandstone, red gums and kangaroos

The Grampians consist of rugged sandstone ranges formed millions of years ago when sandy sediments were tilted, uplifted and eroded to form the north-south ranges evident today.

Wildflowers are the most obvious features of the Grampians flora, but observant visitors will also see subtle variations in vegetation with changes in altitude, aspect and soils. From the stunted heaths of Mt William to the red gum woodland in Victoria Valley and the tall eucalypt forest on the eastern slopes, the park supports over 860 native plant species.

Kangaroos, koalas, echidnas, possums and gliders are common and over 200 bird species have been recorded.

• Accommodation and facilities

A wide range of facilities including motels, guest houses, caravan parks, shops and restaurants is available at Halls Gap and in towns around Grampians National Park. There are also kiosks in the park at Zumstein and above MacKenzie Falls.

• Things to see and do

Scenic drives, bushwalks, picnicking, camping, fishing and nature study are some of the most popular activities. Some roads are suitable for bicycle riding. Swimming is popular in some lakes and several swimming pools adjacent to the park.

Spring (the main wildflower season) and Autumn are popular times to visit but there are plenty of things to see and do year-round.

Picnicking and camping

The map shows the location of the major picnicking and camping areas in the park. Most of these have tables, fireplaces and toilets.

Bush camping is also permitted in much of the park except for the Wonderland area, domestic water supply catchments and stream banks. Please observe No Camping signs, and treat the bush with respect. Detailed information on camping is available.

• Looking after the park

Please help to protect the Grampians National Park by following these commonsense regulations.

Dogs and other pets
—Are allowed in vehicles on sealed roads only.
—Are **not** allowed elsewhere in the park.

Note that dogs are allowed in a number of picnic and camping areas close to the park.

Contact the ranger for further information.

- Don't disturb wildlife or pick wildflowers or other plants.
- Shooting is prohibited.
- Avoid polluting streams and lakes with refuse, detergent or human wastes.

Put your litter in a bin or take it away with you.

Light fires in the fireplaces provided. (No fires on days of Total Fire Ban). Camp fires are also allowed in accordance with fire regulations.

• Further information

- For more information on the park, contact the Park Office in Halls Gap (053) 56 4381, or the Regional Office in Horsham (053) 82 5011. Stawell, phone (053) 58 1588.
- For general tourist information contact information centres at Stawell (053) 58 2314, Horsham (053) 82 3778, Halls Gap (053) 56 4247 and Hamilton (055) 72 3746, or Victour in Melbourne (03) 602 9444.

December 1984 Revised November 1985

Department of Conservation Forests & Lands

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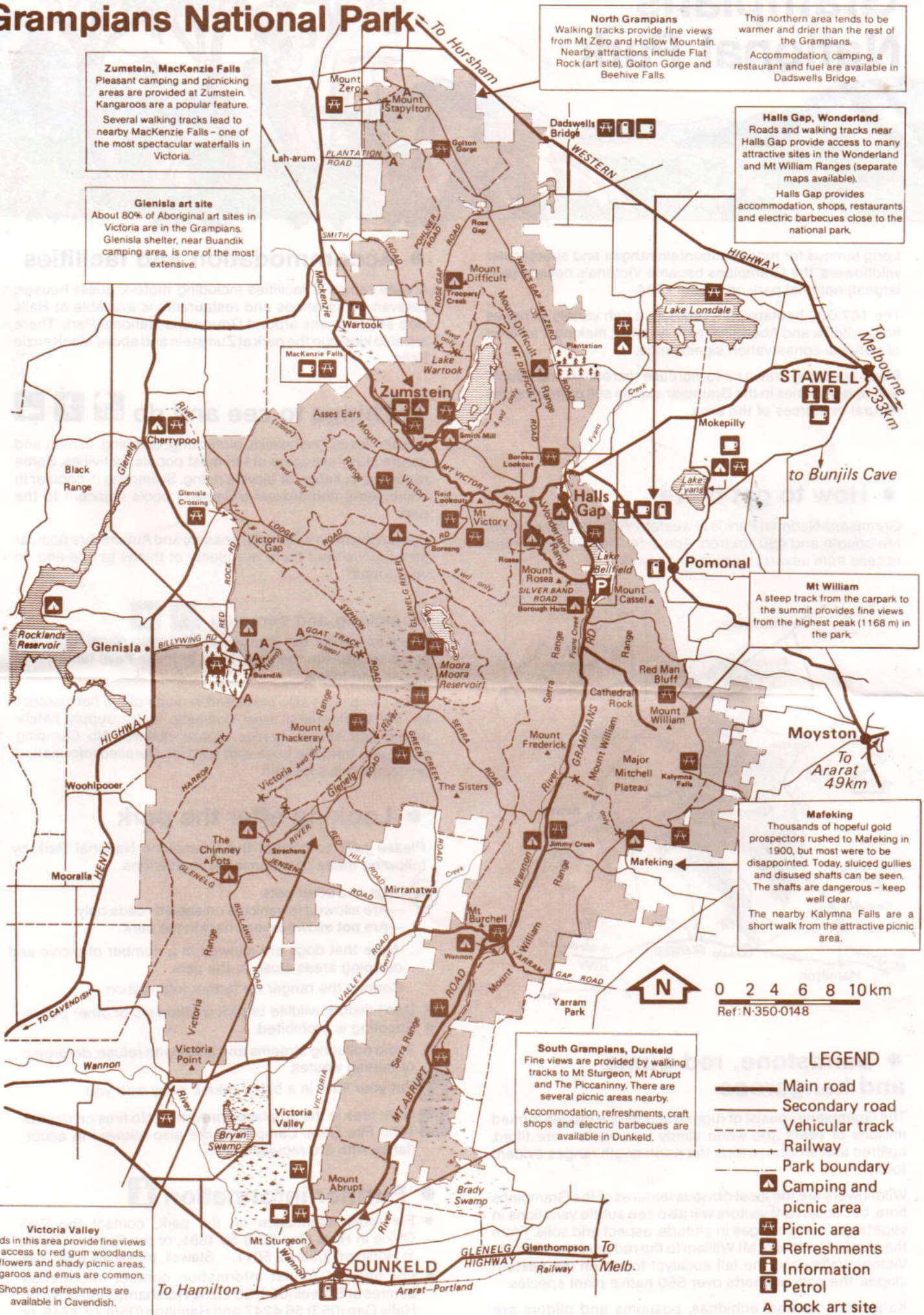
Grampians National Park



North Grampians
Walking tracks provide fine views from Mt Zero and Hollow Mountain. Nearby attractions include Flat Rock (art site), Golton Gorge and Beehive Falls.

This northern area tends to be warmer and drier than the rest of the Grampians.

Accommodation, camping, a restaurant and fuel are available in Dadswells Bridge.

Zumstein, MacKenzie Falls
Pleasant camping and picnicking areas are provided at Zumstein. Kangaroos are a popular feature.

Several walking tracks lead to nearby MacKenzie Falls – one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Victoria.

Halls Gap, Wonderland
Roads and walking tracks near Halls Gap provide access to many attractive sites in the Wonderland and Mt William Ranges (separate maps available).

Halls Gap provides accommodation, shops, restaurants and electric barbecues close to the national park.

Glenisla art site
About 80% of Aboriginal art sites in Victoria are in the Grampians. Glenisla shelter, near Buandik camping area, is one of the most extensive.

Mt William
A steep track from the carpark to the summit provides fine views from the highest peak (1168 m) in the park.

Mafeking
Thousands of hopeful gold prospectors rushed to Mafeking in 1900, but most were to be disappointed. Today, sluiced gullies and disused shafts can be seen. The shafts are dangerous – keep well clear.

The nearby Kalymna Falls are a short walk from the attractive picnic area.

South Grampians, Dunkeld
Fine views are provided by walking tracks to Mt Sturgeon, Mt Abrupt and The Piccaninny. There are several picnic areas nearby.

Accommodation, refreshments, craft shops and electric barbecues are available in Dunkeld.

Victoria Valley
Roads in this area provide fine views and access to red gum woodlands, wildflowers and shady picnic areas. Kangaroos and emus are common.

Shops and refreshments are available in Cavendish.

LEGEND

- Main road
- Secondary road
- Vehicular track
- Railway
- Park boundary
- Camping and picnic area
- Picnic area
- Refreshments
- Information
- Petrol
- A Rock art site
- x Gate (closed in Winter)

The map shows most roads and facilities in or adjacent to the park. See larger-scale maps for the location of walking tracks.